

Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee Meeting
Eagles Early Childhood Center
February 21, 2007

Present:

Jane Nelson, Experienced Parent Project
Sheila Jensen, Experienced Parent Project
Tanya Semingson, MeritCare
Deb Schue, MeritCare
John Yates, Fargo Public Schools
Michelle Enockson, Innovis
Kimberly Zeeb-Schaff, Fraser, Ltd.
Keith Gustafson, KIDS
Wanda Carlson, Southeast Human Service Center
Denise Stromme, Southeast Human Service Center
Janis Johnson, Southeast Human Service Center
Vicky Whitcomb, SE KIDS
Brian Borchardt, Pediatric Therapy Partners
Sue Anderson, Fargo Cass Public Health
Pennie Hatlestad, SENDCAA Head Start
Holly Nett, Child Care Resource & Referral
Terese Schaefer, West Fargo Public Schools

Time: 11:30 A.M.-12:50 P.M.

1. Introductions were made.
2. Information shared.

John Yates handed out Early Childhood Special Education brochures "Programs and Services for Young Children with Special Needs" and asked that they be distributed to interested parties. He also handed out Preschool Screening for Three & Four Year Olds postcards. There is one correction to be made on the postcards – screening area does not include the rural Cass County schools.

The Family Connections Conference will be in Fargo June 14, 15, 16. Jane is on the conference planning committee and stated that this is a "very family friendly" conference. Childcare providers will be on-site during the conference and there may be the possibility of childcare reimburse to parents. More details will follow when available.

MeritCare is holding their seventh annual Cares for Kids Radiothon today through Friday Feb 23rd. The River 95.1, the Wolf 104.7 and Y-94 are helping to raise money for the MeritCare Children's Hospital. There are also daily broadcasts live from the downtown MeritCare site and the public is invited.

Deb Schue also mentioned a Maternal Care Conference that will be held here March 2 and 3. Check the MeritCare website or call them for further details.

3. Discussion held regarding the purpose of the RICC. Members act as an advisory committee to assist the state to do what is needed in order to meet the federally mandated Part C regulations. This includes implementation of the QIP (Quality Improvement Plan) and what's working or what's not working at the regional level. Jane stated she would like to see more representation of parents (who have a child under age 12 and at one time was in Infant Development) on the Committee.

A. RICC formats differ from Region to Region, but mission and goal are consistent. In our region, activity has included:

- Members sharing what their program is about.
- Resource information (workshops, MA eligibility workers presentation, other guests, etc.)
- More participation from region supporters outside the main city area (e.g. Fargo) is something that could be encouraged.
- PolyCom, interactive video participation was required in the past but those outside of region rarely participated. Space and scheduling were issues. Maybe more rural areas would be involved then, as travel would not be so far. It was mentioned that most local school districts would have a video site.
- QIP discussion. Should this be done at RICC meetings or in a subcommittee? For example, SEHSC's group consists of Wanda Carlson, Denise Stromme, Deb Pullen and Jane Nelson. Terese S. brought up difficulty in scheduling so all team members can attend meetings (school hours vs. family schedule conflicts). More uniform data will be available to review by QIP subcommittee in next few months. That information will be incorporated into QIP.
- There was no disagreement with current format and agenda of how RICC is working.

B. The Early Intervention Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) – an accountability measure of key areas addressed in Part C regulations.

Discussion was held. Keith Gustafson, Director of four of the KIDS programs including SE KIDS spoke of his role. He stressed the need for all entities/agencies involved in an individual's case to come together and meet for discussion and/or conflict/problem resolutions. Collaborative measures with agencies should become more of the norm. Often simple solutions are out there, but a different and more unified approach needs to be taken in order to find them.

C. The Child Find Program has improved and is working in accessing services and follow-through. But across the board, there are still kids falling through the cracks and we have not yet determined a good way to truly account for those kids, then problem solve.

D. Medicaid eligibility and Recipient Liability rules were briefly discussed. Some exceptions are made with services through Part C but are very rare and not for avoiding Recipient Liability assignment.

E. Discussion was held on qualifications accepted, fees and licensing differences between the states of MN (and others) and ND and qualities of degrees for Education Specialist and Early Interventionist. North Dakota's rules and regulations need to be updated to ensure that qualified specialists who want to work in ND don't have so many barriers preventing them from doing so.

Our next meeting will be in May. Generally held the second Wednesday of the month, so tentative for May 9th at the Eagles Center again. Look for details when the agenda comes out.

Submitted by J. Johnson
Southeast Human Service Center
Approved for distribution by W. Carlson, DDPA
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